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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 /142 W
---------- 110824
R 301133Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6383
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 14076

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LA, TH, MARR
SUBJ: CHARUNPHAN ON THAI/LAO RELATIONS AND THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 29. FOLLOWING ARE HIS COMMENTS ON THAI/LAO RELATIONS AND THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE.

REPORTER: WHAT IS THE RESULT OF REQUESTS MADE TO THAILAND BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT? WHAT ACTION WILL OUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TAKE?

CHARUNPHAN: WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO WELCOME THE LAO REPRESENTATIVES OF WHAT IS CALLED A THAI-LAO COMMITTEE. WHENEVER THEY ARE SENT HERE, THEN MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS WILL BE HELD.

REPORTER: WILL LAO DEPUTY PREMIER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT COME HERE HIMSELF?

CHARUNPHAN: I MYSELF DON'T KNOW YET WHO WILL COME
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HERE, BECAUSE NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED YET INFORMING

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US OF THE DATE OF ARRIVAL AND AT WHAT LEVEL THE DELEGATION
WILL BE.

WE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO REPORTERS THE GOOD INTENTIONS
OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS DESIRE TO PROMOTE AND CONTINUE
HAVING DOOD RELATIONS WITH THE KINGDOM OF LAOS AND SIMILAR
STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE LAO AMBASSADOR ALSO. WE
WISH TO DISPLAY OUR GOOD INTENTIONS IN A PRACTICAL MANNER,
AS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND AS COUNTRIES WHICH COULD BE
CALLED SISTER COUNTRIES, THEREFORE WE SHOULD FIND WAYS TO
BE ON CLOSE AND INTIMATE TERMS ALWAYS. THIS POLICY IS A
BASIC POLICY WHICH OUR GOVERNMENT IS IMPLEMENTING TOWARD
NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ALREADY, AND WHICH IT EMPHASIZED
IN ITS STATEMENT OF POLICY TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

REPORTER: WHAT MEASURES DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE TO REMEDY
THE ALLEGATION MADE BY LAOS THAT WE LACK SINCERITY TOWARD
IT? FOR INSTANCE, IT POINTS OUT THAT AMERICAN MILITARY
FORCES ARE STILL STATIONED IN THAILAND AND THAT THERE ARE
OTHER MATTERS ALSO WHICH CAUSE TROUBLE TO LAOS ALL THE
TIME.

CHARUNPHAN: IN REGARD TO THE PROBLEM OF THE CONTINUED
PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES HERE, OR WHAT ARE CALLED
MILITARY UNITS WHICH ARE USING UTAPAO AND SOME OTHER
AIRFIELDS IN THAILAND, I HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED BEFORE THAT
THEIR PRESENCE HERE IS TO SUPERVISE AND PERFORM WORK UNDER
THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT SIGNED IN PAIRS. FURTHERMORE, I
HAVE POINTED OUT SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE SITUATION IN INDO-
CHINA IS NOT QUIET AND ORDERLY YET, THEREFORE THE HOPE
FOR REAL AND LASTING PEACE TO BE RESTORED IS NOT SUFFI-
CIENTLY BRIGHT FOR US TO CONCENTRATE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
UNITED STATES FOR IT TO COMPLETELY WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY
FORCES. THIS STATEMENT I HAVE MADE IS A REPETITION OF
SIMILAR STATEMENTS I HAVE MADE BEFORE.....

REPORTER: REVERTING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE THAI/LAO JOINT
COMMITTEE, HAS THE AGENDA FOR A MEETING BEEN DRAFTED YET?
I HAVE HEARD THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO THINGS WHICH LAOS DESIRES
MOST. THEY ARE IN REGARD TO TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS THROUGH
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THAILAND TO LAOS, AND A REQUEST FOR AIR FRANCE PLANES TO
STOP OVER IN DON MUANG ON THEIR WAY TO AND FROM LAOS.

CHARUNPHAN: HOW CAN AN AGENDA BE DRAFTED SINCE WE
HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED YET OF THE DATE OF THE ARRIVAL HERE OF
THE LAO DELEGATION. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE WILL ACCEPT
FOR CONSIDERATION EVERY SUBJECT WHICH IS A PROBLEM, AND
SHOULD WE NOT BE ABLE TO REMEDY ANY PROBLEM FACED AT THE FIRST

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MEETING CONSULTATIONS WILL BE CONTINUED AND FURTHER TALKS
HELD AT ANOTHER MEETING HELD LATER. THIS JOINT COMMITTED
WILL HOLD MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS REGULARLY,
THAILAND AND LAOS TAKING TURNS ALTERNATELY TO BE THE
HOST COUNTRIES. WE WILL BE THE HOST COUNTRY AT THIS FIRST
MEETING TO BE HELD.

REPORTER: HASN'T LAOS, THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR, GIVEN
US ANY INFORMATION YET IN REGARD TO THIS FIRST MEETING?

CHARUNPHAN: I BELIEVE THAT THE DELAY MIGHT BE DUE
TO PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA'S ILLNESS, BECAUSE THE LETTER
MAKING CONTACT WAS FROM HIM. I FEEL CERTAIN THAT LAOS WILL
RESPOND FAVORABLY BECAUSE IT IS A MATTER CONDERNING
MUTUAL COOPERATION.
KINTNER

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